

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/723,449

Applicant(s)

TRAN, DANIEL

Examiner

Ali Abdelwahed

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Initial Filing.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ron Jacobs on June 24, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 7, delete "slide ably" and insert --slidably--.

Claim 1, line 12, after "...path that is in...", delete "an" and insert --a--.

Claim 1, line 15, delete "slide ably" and insert --slidably--.

Claim 2, line 1, delete "guides are" and insert --guide is--.

Claim 3, line 1, delete "guides are" and insert --guide is--.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "guides are" and insert --guide is--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "guides are" and insert --guide is--.

Claim 8, line 1, delete "guides are" and insert --guide is--.

Claim 10, line 1, delete "2" and insert --9--.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "4" and insert --11--.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "driving".

Claim 13, line 1, delete "6" and insert --12--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The specific limitations of "...a pinlifter assembly embedded in said cavity, said pinlifter assembly having: a wedge guide providing an angled movement path that is in a wedge angle with respect to said wafer holding face; a pin actuator correspondingly shaped to said wedge guide and slidably guided by said wedge guide such that said pin actuator is moved along said movement path as a result of an imposed driving force; a driving means for said imposing of said driving force onto said pin actuator..." in claim 1 are not anticipated or made obvious over the prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,416,647 B1 to Dordi et al. teaches a chuck body (204) having a wafer holding face (206) for holding a wafer (202); a cavity (402B) structurally separated and below the wafer holding face (see fig. 6); pin channels (324) extending between the holding face and the cavity substantially perpendicular to the holding face (see fig. 5); pinlifters (322) correspondingly shaped to and slidably embedded in the pin channels (see fig. 5), each of the pinlifters having a bottom face and a top face; wherein the bottom faces are in contact with a pin contact face of the pin actuator (320) such that the pinlifters are simultaneously moved along the pin channels and the top faces are moved between a bottom position below the holding face (see fig. 4) and a top position above the holding face (see fig. 5), and U.S. Patent No. 5,946,184 to Kanno et al. teaches a chuck body (11) having a wafer holding face (14) for holding a

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wafer (9); pin channels (34) extending between the holding face and the cavity substantially perpendicular to the holding face (see fig. 7); pinlifters (30) correspondingly shaped to and slidably embedded in the pin channels (see fig. 7), each of the pinlifters having a bottom face and a top face; wherein the bottom faces are in contact with a pin contact face of the pin actuator (31) such that the pinlifters are simultaneously moved along the pin channels and the top faces are moved between a bottom position below the holding face and a top position above the holding face (see fig. 7).

However, the prior art of record fails to teach a wedge guide providing an angled movement path that is in a wedge angle with respect to said wafer holding face; a pin actuator correspondingly shaped to said wedge guide and slidably guided by said wedge guide such that said pin actuator is moved along said movement path as a result of an imposed driving force; a driving means for said imposing of said driving force onto said pin actuator.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Abdelwahed whose telephone number is (571) 272-4417. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (571) 272-4419.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the examiner or the examiner's supervisor.

AA

06/24/2005



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